



SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARIES,

THEIR ADAPTATION TO THE RELIEF

OF THE

POOR AND WORKING CLASSES,

WITH DIRECTIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS.

BY

JOHN JONES, M. R. C. S., ENGL.,


SENIOR SURGEON TO THE DERBY SELF-SUPPORTING OR PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, 11 NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

DERBY, BEMROSE AND SONS.

1862.





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IN consequence of receiving frequent applications for information respecting the establishment of self-supporting Dispensaries, and particularly as to the working of the Derby Dispensary, I am induced to republish my pamphlet, printed in the year 1844, to which I have added such further information as the experience of thirty-two years, during which period I have been connected with the Derby Dispensary, has enabled me to obtain.

I have also added a copy of the Rules and Mode of Management of the Derby Dispensary, and trust that the information thus afforded may lead to the more general adoption of the excellent Dispensary System proposed by the late Mr. SMITH, which might fairly be considered one of the greatest boons that can be conferred on the poor and working classes.

JOHN JONES.



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HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

THE establishment of Hospitals and Dispensaries, for the purpose of affording medical aid to the sick poor, is a peculiar feature of what may be called christian civilization. Amongst all the splendid monuments of antiquity left by Ancient Greece and Rome, and which have excited the wonder and admiration of after ages to the present time, there are no remains which testified that they cultivated an active benevolence in providing for the relief and comfort of those who were suffering under the afflictive visitation of poverty and sickness. It is true, that the Greeks were distinguished by their kindness to strangers ; and the Romans also had their Hospitalia, which were buildings attached to the houses of their nobles for the reception of strangers, where all their necessary wants were gratuitously supplied. But these had no reference to providing suitable aid for the indigent during sickness. Hospitals, for this benevolent purpose, were first established after the introduction of christianity, and must be considered as peculiarly the result of the pure and elevated doctrines of christian morality. The Nations of Europe have, from the earliest periods of christianity, made special provision for the sick and infirm poor—at first under the direction of the Church ; but, in more modern times, Hospitals or Infirmarys have been formed in most large towns, and in Britain especially, such Institutions are supported by voluntary subscriptions—many of them are not only a refuge for the unfortunate during sickness, but also are schools for practically cultivating the art and science of medicine and surgery, and form some of their most prominent establishments, diffusing their peculiar benefits almost to an unlimited extent. In England these institutions rank high amongst the many noble establishments which pre-eminently distinguish this country amongst the nations of the world. Charitable dispensaries are of much more recent formation, and are especially the

offspring of British benevolence. It is only within the last century that such Institutions have been formed, and they are now to be found in most of the large towns of the United Kingdom. They are distinguished from Hospitals or Infirmaries, particularly by supplying medicine and medical attendance to the poor at their own houses, and thereby communicating medical aid much more extensively than can be done by Hospitals which provide more especially for patients within their own walls, or who can attend as out-patients at the Institution.

That medical men possess as much active benevolence as their neighbours, is proved by the readiness they evince whenever occasions occur, of affording their professional services to the poor without the slightest prospect of remuneration, and that their benevolence in this respect has been unmercifully taxed is a fact too well known to be disputed. It is however owing to the indirect advantage which is supposed to attach to the medical appointments of charitable Institutions in securing an extension of private practice, that such offices in general are sought after with so much eagerness. With reference to the medical appointments of large Hospitals, this indirect advantage is undoubtedly sufficiently great to justify such expectations, and to secure for the patients all the attention which their unfortunate circumstances require. With respect to Dispensaries, *purely charitable*, however, the case is somewhat different. To attend persons at their own houses requires a great sacrifice of time and trouble on the part of the medical attendant, and the indirect advantage of increasing private practice is much more questionable than is the case with medical appointments of Hospitals. These offices have accordingly been generally sought after by the junior members of the profession, and when their private practice has increased, the duties of the Dispensary have been too frequently neglected. The indiscriminate manner in which tickets of recommendation are bestowed is productive of evils which are difficult to be avoided, but are greatly to be deplored.

SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARIES.

Mr. Smith, of Southam, impressed with the inefficient mode of securing to the poor and working class, suitable medical aid during sickness proposed the formation of these Institutions, which he designated Self-supporting Charitable and Parochial Dispensaries. The principles on which they are based are dictated by the most enlarged philanthropy and correct and liberal views of genuine charity. They are equally honorable to the heart and head of their respected author, and justly entitle him to the gratitude of his country. With certain modifications, suggested by lengthened experience, they offer one of the greatest boons ever conferred on the working classes of society.

As the original name given to these Institutions would indicate, they were intended to benefit three distinct classes of persons—

1. The *free class* — consisting of working mechanics, and labourers, who by a small weekly contribution are entitled to its privileges.

2. *Charity class* — or those who are too poor to subscribe as “free members,” and who receive tickets of recommendation from Honorary Subscribers.

3. *Pauper class*—or the parochial poor, the overseers of whose parishes contract with the Managing Committee of the Dispensary.

Self-supporting Dispensaries, however, are specially intended for the benefit of the working classes, which constitute such a large proportion of the population of this country; particularly in manufacturing districts. To provide such assistance for this important class of persons, without outraging their feelings of honest independence, and destroying self-respect, by forcing them to the degradation of having recourse to charity, was the desideratum contemplated by the benevolent founder of these Institutions, and experience has most triumphantly proved that the plan he proposed, when fairly carried into effect, is amply sufficient for securing this most desirable object.

The numerous Charitable Institutions which form such distinguishing ornaments of this country, and of which we may be justly proud, the readiness at all times evinced by its wealthy inhabitants, as well as the middle classes of society, to promote by their influence and pecuniary contributions, any measure which they believe to be beneficial to the poor, are gratifying signs of the times, and evince a degree of benevolence which might form a pure fountain from which the streams of charity may abundantly flow. To direct these streams into their proper and legitimate channels, and thereby to secure all the good and avoid the evils too often attendant on an injudicious and indiscriminate exercise of charity, is an object of paramount importance.

The following observations are contained in a paper of the author's on the subject of Self-supporting Dispensaries, published in the Medical Gazette for June, 1833.

“Political economists violently exclaim against indiscriminate charity, and assert that eleemosynary Institutions are so numerous in our country as to become a great evil, that the benevolence of the English character is greater than its prudence—that the poor have so much done for them that they forget to do any thing for themselves—that the laudable spirit of independence which used to distinguish our peasantry is destroyed, and they no longer consider pauperism a disgrace. It must be acknowledged there is some truth in these assertions, but to correct such evils, and at the same time to direct the streams of benevolence into their

legitimate channels, are the great and peculiar objects of Self-supporting Dispensaries.

The description of persons for whose advantage the "free class" is intended, forms a most important part of the community which has hitherto been comparatively neglected, and no Institution, with objects similar to those proposed by Mr. Smith, has been formed expressly for its benefit.

The most frequent cause of pauperism is disease. If a working man, on whose weekly earnings his family depends for subsistence is deprived of health, he and his family have no other alternative than to become paupers. The health of such an individual is therefore of important consequence to the community; and the public only consult their own interest, by affording him all possible facilities for securing this paramount blessing. We accordingly find that where Self-supporting Dispensaries have been established parish rates have visibly diminished. Without the powerful engine afforded by this Dispensary system to the working man, when disease affects his family, he of course seeks for medical aid, and as long as he retains so much respect for himself as to shrink from becoming burdensome to the parish, he employs a medical attendant of his own choice—a bill is consequently incurred which he is unable to discharge. Sickness again visits his house—the former bill not being paid, he sends for another surgeon, and so on till he becomes indebted to as many medical men as will trust him, and in the end pays none. If he should be too honest to incur expenses, which he knows himself unable to pay, the probable consequence is, that disease which at first might have been easily removed is allowed to make such ravages as to become incurable, thus practically contradicting the axiom, 'that honesty is the best policy.' Being in this way familiarized with dishonesty he naturally becomes indifferent to character, and commences the slippery path which leads to pauperism, which is no longer dreaded as a disgrace. Give him on the other hand the opportunity of securing to himself and family proper medical assistance during sickness, and let him feel that with a little provident forethought this might be effected by his own exertions, without outraging his feelings of independence, by having recourse to charity, and he will retain the self-respect which gives him the honest pride of independence. He will feel that he has a standing in society, and a character to support, and will shun pauperism as the legitimate offspring of idleness and profligacy."

DERBY DISPENSARY.

In the summer of 1830, Mr. Smith gave a lecture to the Derby Medical Society then recently established, on the subject of his Dispensary System. On his departure it was proposed that a

Dispensary on Mr. Smith's plan should be established in Derby, under the auspices of the Medical Society, which was negatived by a majority of one. The author, who was exceedingly desirous of having a Dispensary established in Derby, then addressed a letter to the local newspapers, strongly recommending Mr. Smith's plan. He obtained the co-operation of some influential persons in the town — a provisional Committee was formed, who presented to the Mayor a requisition to call a public meeting, at which it was decided that a Dispensary should forthwith be established; to be called "the Derby Self-supporting Charitable and Parochial Dispensary."

For fourteen years the Dispensary continued its operations with varied but diminishing success. At the annual meeting of the subscribers for 1844, the following statement occurs in the Report—"The total number of 'free class' members at present on the books is 384, according to the report of the Committee read at the last annual meeting the number was 459, being a decrease during the year of 73. The number of honorary subscribers is also greatly diminished, so that the income, which formerly amounted to nearly £200, was during the last year £148, leaving a balance against the institution of £196, 14s. 9d."

Although conferring great benefits on the poor and working classes, the Institution was in a state of insolvency, and its operations greatly impeded and unsatisfactory. This was owing, as was clearly ascertained, to a "charity class" being united to the "free class," in accordance with Mr. Smith's original plan.—Experience alone could correct this error, and the Dispensary, during the fourteen years in which such union existed, afforded ample proof that the two principles of self-reliance and reliance on charity are antagonizing principles, utterly incompatible with each other, and incapable of harmonizing, or indeed existing together, for a long continuance.

At this meeting it was resolved to discontinue the "charity class." The rules were accordingly revised and the Institution remodelled, under the name of "Derby Self-supporting or Provident Dispensary." About this time the following letter was addressed to the author by Mr. Smith.—

"When I first proposed to establish a 'charity class' of patients in conjunction with the Self-supporting and Parochial, it was for this town (Southam) where at that time there was no Dispensary or Infirmary whatever, indeed there was none near to us. I was soon obliged to abandon the 'charity class,' for the simple fact, that the poor would not pay for themselves as long as any body would pay for them. The same was the case at Wellesburn, at Atherstone, and Nuneaton all places where the Self-supporting class would have done well had it not been for the indiscreet recommendations into the 'charity class.' I, therefore, long ago,

advised at Coventry and other places, a Dispensary on the Self-supporting principle alone, and they have done well."

In the second annual report after the discontinuance of the "charity class," is the following statement—"Your Committee cannot refrain from expressing their full and decided conviction, that the operations of the Dispensary prove most satisfactorily that by the co-operation of the wealthy inhabitants of the town, with the medical officers of the Institution, the principle of self-reliance on which it is founded is fully adequate to secure suitable and efficient medical aid, when needed, to all that numerous class of the community, excepting actual paupers (who are provided with medical aid by the poor-law union), who are too poor to pay for it in the usual way, and that this most important object can be effected without injury to the Medical Profession."

From the time the alteration was made in the constitution of the Dispensary, of abolishing the "charity class," the numbers of the "free class" members rapidly increased, the Institution became more highly appreciated by the poor and working classes, on whom it had conferred incalculable benefits.

The following table shows the relative numbers of "free class" members enrolled during the ten successive years after the alteration was made of discontinuing the "charity class."

In the year 1844, when the "charity class" was discontinued, the number of "free class" members on the books was 384

1846	...	...	...	...	...	863
1847	...	...	...	...	...	750
1848	...	...	...	...	...	840
1849	...	...	...	...	...	876
1850	...	...	...	...	...	1046
1851	...	...	...	...	...	1075
1852	...	...	...	...	...	1306
1853	...	...	...	...	...	1307
1854	...	...	...	...	...	1350
1855	...	...	...	...	...	1456

In the year 1856 the following declaration of the Medical Officers of the Derby Provident Dispensary, together with a letter to the author from Benjamin Frear, Esq., was published in the British Medical Association Journal.—

"We the undersigned, Medical Officers of the Derby Provident or Self-supporting Dispensary, hereby declare our unqualified approval of the system on which the Institution is founded, as originally proposed by Mr. Smith, of Southam.

Since it was remodelled in the year 1844, when the 'charity class' was discontinued, and the Dispensary consisted only of honorary members and 'free class' members, it has steadily and progressively advanced in usefulness and importance, and has

conferred incalculable benefits on the poor and working classes of this large and increasing manufacturing town.

We also declare our unanimous opinion, that these satisfactory and important results have been obtained without injury to the interests of the Medical Profession.

(Signed)

H. BRIGSTOCKE, M.D.

Consulting Physician to the Derby Dispensary.

HENRY FRANCIS GISBORNE

GEORGE TAYLOR

ROBERT HAMILTON

JOHN JOHNSON

AUGUSTUS GREAVES

JOHN CLARK

JOHN JONES

JOHN WRIGHT BAKER

JOHN WEBSTER,

Dispenser for the last thirteen years.

The following testimony is from the late Benjamin Frear, Esq., a non-medical gentleman, who from the first establishment of the Dispensary till his lamented death, which occurred last year, was an active and valuable member of the Managing Committee; when the Institution was remodelled in 1844, he accepted the office of Honorary Secretary, and was constant in his attendance at the Dispensary, except when unavoidably prevented, every Thursday Evening, in conjunction with one of the Surgeons and the Dispenser, who met from six till eight o'clock, to receive the weekly contributions of the "free class," and to enrol new members.

(Copy).

Friargate, August 19th, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have great pleasure in giving my testimony to the satisfactory working of the Derby Provident Dispensary. Having been on the Committee of the Institution ever since its establishment, I consider myself competent to form a correct opinion on the subject. For several years the Dispensary did not prosper as it ought to have done in consequence of a "charity class" being united with a "free class." The Honorary Subscribers did not use discrimination in giving recommendations to the "charity class," and from this and other causes it frequently happened that parties were receiving relief as charity patients, who were well able to subscribe as "free members," and indeed better than many who did actually subscribe as such, to the great injury of the Institution. Since the "charity class" has been abolished, and the principle of self-support fully carried out, the Institution has continued to prosper notwithstanding a considerable decrease in the number of Honorary Subscribers, from death and other causes.

I remain,

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

B. FREAR,

Honorary Secretary to the Dispensary.

J. JONES, Esq.

According to the annual report for 1861, the enrolment of "free class" members was 4060—up to the present time, July, 1862, the numbers are 4409—thus showing that the Institution is highly and increasingly appreciated by those for whose benefit it was established, and that its prosperity is securely and steadily advancing.

POOR-LAW UNIONS.

Remuneration for services rendered is the just right of every individual, and affords the best security for having such services duly and efficiently performed. One of the peculiar excellencies of Self-supporting Dispensaries is, that the contributions of the free-class members form a fund from which the Medical Officers are paid in proportion to the number of persons enrolled under their names. Although such remuneration is but small and inadequate, yet it induces a spirit of honorable competition amongst them highly favourable to the patients.

Formerly the paupers of Derby were supplied with Medical aid by the parishes to which they belonged. A regularly appointed Surgeon was employed by each parish at a small annual stipend, and on receiving the appointment one of the conditions was, that he should attend the poor of the parish whether paupers or not who were unable to pay for medical advice. Within ten years after the Unions were formed, the population of the town, consisting of five parishes, increased nearly one-third, and amounted, according to the census, to upwards of 35,000 being at the rate of a thousand a-year. When the Union was formed under the Poor-Law Amendment Act, the old system of each parish employing a Surgeon of its own election was abolished, and one Surgeon only, instead of *five* as formerly, was appointed to afford medical aid to the paupers of this large and rapidly increasing town. The reasons for adopting this plan were, that it would not only be a great pecuniary saving to the parishes, but as the Surgeon would not be required to attend any individual without an order from the relieving officer, his duties would not be onerous, particularly as so many of the poor were attended by the Medical Officers of the Dispensary, besides those who received medical aid as out-door and in-patients of the Infirmary. A similar policy seems to have been adopted by Unions in other parts of the kingdom. In the Ninth Annual Report of the Poor-Law Commissioners it is stated, that "the duties of Union Surgeons were much diminished in the North of England, in consequence of the various Dispensaries which gave relief to the sick poor. Thus the important provision of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, for securing to the sick poor efficient medical aid, is allowed to depend for its successful workings on *Institutions supported by private charity*. Such a mode of carrying out the law can afford no permanent security for the due

fulfilment of its provisions. It is unfair to the benevolent supporters of such Institutions, thus to have forced upon them the burden of supplying medicines, &c., to the indigent poor, who ought to have secured to them medical aid from the funds of their respective parishes. It is also unreasonable to expect that the Medical Officers of such Institutions will afford their professional services to the sick poor, when they know that by so doing they are performing work *gratuitously*, which properly belongs to the Union Surgeon, and for which he is supposed to be duly remunerated.

In consequence of the operation of the Poor-Law Amendment Act, the object originally proposed of affording medical aid from the Dispensary to paupers, became superseded. But previous to the alteration in the Poor-Law, an arrangement had been made with the overseers of one of the parishes of this town (St. Alkmund's) for attendance on its paupers, which afforded complete and entire satisfaction. It is a circumstance greatly to be lamented, that Mr. Smith's Dispensary System was not incorporated, as he suggested in the new act, whereby the paupers would have had the choice of their medical attendant—and as part of the contributions of the overseers would have been appropriated for the supply of medicines, and the remainder given to the Medical Officers, according to the number attended by each, a spirit of competition would have been the natural consequence, affording the best security for the faithful discharge of the duties of the medical attendant. In these respects the paupers would have secured to them, from the Dispensary, the same advantages as are possessed by the "free class," without subjecting the parishes to any greater expense than they had previously been accustomed to pay.

The present mode of medical relief to paupers has always excited great dissatisfaction, and affords just cause of complaint. It is equally unfair to the Medical Officers, and to the poor committed to their charge. The remuneration is so utterly inadequate, that every Union Surgeon is placed in the unenviable position of feeling that, if he should faithfully discharge the duties of his office, he must necessarily injure his own interests. He is required to find his own medicines, which if *good*, must cost more than the amount of salary usually allowed for his services. The only way of correcting such a palpable evil, is for every Union to be supplied with Dispensaries for preparing medicines at convenient distances from the Medical Officers. Any system for medical relief to paupers, without such an arrangement must be exceedingly defective, and must always be a futile source of discontent, rendering the office of Union Surgeon, most unsatisfactory to himself, derogatory to the Medical Profession, and affording no security for due attendance on the paupers.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-SUPPORTING OR PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

In establishing a Self-supporting Dispensary, it is essentially necessary to obtain the co-operation of influential persons residing in the neighbourhood, upon whom and indeed on all who have the welfare of the poor at heart, such Institutions have special claims. From this class of persons there can be no difficulty in obtaining Honorary Subscribers. The fund formed by the subscriptions of Honorary Subscribers should be sufficient to pay the rent of a house suitable for a Dispensary and accommodation of a Dispenser—the salary of the Dispenser—drugs, and other contingent expenses. If the Institution should prosper, which, if in a suitable locality, it is sure to do, the weekly contributions of the “free class” members will, in a few years, become sufficient not only to pay the Medical Officers satisfactorily, but greatly to assist the fund formed by the subscriptions of Honorary Subscribers in defraying the current expenses of the Institution, which ultimately might even become Self-supporting.

If a building for the Dispensary should be thought desirable, a special subscription for that purpose must be obtained, to which may be added any surplus of the general fund which might occur after paying the current expenses, together with the regulated allowance to the Medical Officers. Such surplus might reasonably be expected occasionally to occur, from the operation of the following Rule—General Rules, 2.

“That in no case shall any of the Surgeons receive more than three shillings for each ‘free member’ who may have been registered under their names.”

As the office of Dispenser is an exceedingly responsible one, it is particularly desirable that he should not only faithfully perform the duties of his office, but that he should be required to be uniformly courteous to the patients—in all respects to act in concert with the Medical Officers; and to comply with their wishes in accordance with the Rules of the Institution.

The following is a copy of the Rules, &c., revised October 1845, of the Derby Self-supporting or Provident Dispensary, established August 1830.

PECULIAR ADVANTAGES OF SELF-SUPPORTING OR PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

1. They place medical aid within the means of the working classes.

2. They provide for the working classes under the denomination of "free members," medical advice in the earliest stages of sickness, and thus tend to prevent the extension of disease amongst the poor, and to lessen the evils consequent on delay, in the application of medical assistance.

3. They enable the working classes to insure to themselves and families efficient medical advice and medicines, during illness, by their own periodical payments during health, and by the contributions of the more opulent to assist them in attaining this object.

4. They afford surgical and medical aid to the poor married women, being "free members," during their confinement.

5. The feelings and comfort of the "free members" are consulted by allowing the choice of being attended by any of the Medical Officers of the establishment who might be most agreeable to them.

6. These advantages are secured to them without any sacrifice of independence, and without the sense of degradation which attends the reception of gratuitous charity.

7. They foster amongst the poor the habits of reliance on their own industry, prudence, forethought, and mutual assistance, and thus aid Friendly Societies, Savings Banks, and other Institutions calculated to raise the character of the working classes.

8. They facilitate the establishment of Dispensaries by the financial assistance derived from the contributions of the "free members."

GENERAL RULES.

1. The funds of the Institution are derived from two sources — 1st. From the small weekly payments of subscribers who are termed “free members.” 2nd. From the contributions of the more affluent, who on subscribing to the Institution, become “Honorary Members.” Donors of ten guineas or upwards shall be Governors for life; and annual subscribers of one guinea shall be Governors during the continuance of their subscription. The subscriptions of Honorary Subscribers shall commence on the 29th September, and be paid in advance.

2. The contributions of Honorary Subscribers and those of “free members” shall form one fund, from which the current expenses of the Institution shall be defrayed, and the surplus, if any, shall be given to the Surgeons according to the number of “free members” who have been registered under their names—that in no case shall any of the Surgeons receive more than three shillings for each such “free member” who may have been registered under their names.

3. The affairs of this Dispensary shall be managed by a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, two Secretaries, one being the Medical Officer of the week, and a Committee of ten Governors, five of whom shall go out annually, but be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall be chosen by open votes at the annual meetings. The Medical Officers, and non-medical Honorary Secretary shall be ex-officio Members of the Committee. Five of the Medical Officers only being allowed to vote on the Committee.

4. That one or both of the Honorary Secretaries shall meet every Thursday evening, at seven o'clock, for the purpose of admitting “free members” and receiving their weekly contributions. If unable to attend they shall engage a Member of the Committee to act in their stead.*

* As the duties of the non-medical Honorary Secretary are onerous, requiring his attendance every Thursday evening, with one of the Medical Officers, it will be proposed at the next Annual Meeting, that instead of *one* there shall be *four* non-medical Honorary Secretaries, each of whom shall in turn be in office for three months.

To secure the attendance of the *medical* Honorary Secretary, to meet the *non-medical* Honorary Secretary, on Thursday evenings, he is subjected to a fine of 2s. 6d. for non-attendance.

5. The Committee shall meet the first Tuesday in every month, at seven o'clock in the evening, for the despatch of the ordinary business of the Institution. At these meetings all Honorary Members shall be at liberty to attend, but none excepting the Members of the Committee shall be permitted to vote on the questions which may be discussed.

6. The Committee shall have power to make temporary laws for the better regulation of the affairs of the Institution, which shall remain in force till the next annual meeting. But no law affecting its essential principles, or the privileges of its members, shall be made at any other than the annual meeting—nor then unless previous notice in writing, of the alteration intended to be proposed, shall have been laid before the Committee, who shall cause the same to be advertised in the Derby Mercury, Reporter, and Advertiser Newspapers, at least one fortnight before the time appointed for the annual meeting.

7. A general meeting of the Governors shall take place annually, on the first Thursday after Michaelmas day. At this meeting the state of the Institution shall be reported by the Committee, their accounts examined, new laws and regulations made, Officers appointed, and such other business transacted as may be judged necessary. All disputed questions shall be determined by open vote.

8. A majority of the Committee, or any three Governors, may at any time call a special general meeting, on giving not less than seven days' notice, by addressing circular letters to the Governors, stating the special business for which the meeting is called. At such meeting no other business shall be entered into than that which is specified in the notice.

9. Parties subscribing in the name of a firm shall be entitled to one vote only, and no Governor shall be entitled to more than one vote. No new subscriber shall be allowed to vote on any question till six months after the payment of his subscription. Ladies only may vote by proxy, the proxy being a Governor, and producing a written authority.

RULES FOR THE FREE MEMBERS.

1. Free members shall consist of meritorious working persons and servants, their wives and children, not receiving parish relief, but unable to pay for medical assistance in the usual way.*

2. Persons who apply to become "free members" must attend at the Dispensary for that purpose, on Thursday evenings, at seven o'clock, and if there should be no objection, they shall be enrolled and receive their ticket of admission.

3. Every "free member," above fourteen years of age, shall pay one penny, and under that age, one half-penny a week; excepting in a family consisting of more than two children, when one penny a-week shall be considered sufficient for all under fourteen years of age.

4. Each "free member" shall, at the time of being enrolled, name the Surgeon by whom he wishes to be attended.

5. The "free members'" subscriptions may be paid every Thursday evening, at the Dispensary, when attendance will be given by Honorary Secretaries, for the purpose of receiving subscriptions and enrolling members, or the same may be paid to the Dispenser on the first Monday of every month.

6. If "free members" allow their subscriptions to be in arrears six weeks, they shall be fined one penny; if more than six weeks, threepence; if for three months, they subject themselves to expulsion. No one will be entitled to the benefits of the Institution whilst his subscriptions are in arrear.

7. Each family enrolled as such, under Rule 3, shall pay a fine of one penny for an arrear of six weeks, and threepence for more than six weeks.

8. Persons who have subjected themselves to expulsion, in consequence of non-payment of their subscription, shall, on application, be readmitted on paying their arrears, not exceeding three shillings and sixpence for an adult, and one shilling and ninepence for a child under fourteen years of age.

9. All patients must furnish themselves with clean phials, &c., to contain their medicines, and with bandages when required.

10. No patient shall be at liberty to change his Surgeon before the expiration of the current quarter; but shall at all times have

* The following scale of earnings of persons who apply to be admitted as "Free Class" Members, is found useful as a guide for inquiring into their circumstances at the time of enrolment. A single man, 12s. per week. A man and his wife, 14s. per week. And in addition, for every child depending on them, under 14 years of age, 1s. 6d. per week.

the privilege, if deemed necessary, of a consultation of the establishment or the advice of the Consulting Physician.

11. If any "free member" shall be discovered by the Committee to be ineligible to the benefits of this Institution, his or her name shall be erased from the books.

12. All complaints, whether against the patients or against the Officers of this Institution, shall be preferred in writing to the Committee.

13. Persons cannot be admitted as "free members" when sick, unless they pay in advance three shillings and sixpence for adults, and one shilling and ninepence for those under fourteen years of age, and also their weekly contribution.

14. Married females, being "free members," may be attended during their confinement by the Surgeon of their choice, by depositing seven shillings at the Dispensary, previous to lying in.*

RULES RELATING TO THE DISPENSER.

1. The Dispenser shall be appointed by the Committee, and shall conform exactly to the instructions he may from time to time receive from them.

2. His salary shall be determined by the Committee, who shall have power to give him a gratuity, not exceeding ten pounds in any one year, if his conduct shall appear to have merited such reward.

3. He shall reside at the Dispensary, and shall open it every morning, except Sunday, at nine o'clock and close it at eight o'clock in the evening. But he shall prepare prescriptions at any hour in cases of emergency, which shall be certified as such by the prescribing Surgeon. On Sundays the Dispensary shall be open at eight o'clock, and closed at ten o'clock in the morning.

4. He shall duly compound the medicines in conformity with the prescriptions and direction of the Medical Officers, and deliver them with plain and accurate directions to the patients.

5. He shall register the name, age, residence, and complaints of the patients, distinguishing those who attend at the Dispensary,

* This Rule is generally unsatisfactory to the Medical Officers. It was originally proposed that a deposit of 8s. should be made at the Dispensary before confinement, to which 2s. 6d. should be added from the General Fund. But as the Rule was not made with the view of securing to the Medical Attendant *adequate* remuneration for his services, but to enable the poor and working-man to provide necessary medical aid for himself and family in time of need, in accordance with the provident principle on which the Institution is based, the proposition was not received.

from those who are attended at their own houses—and he shall state when each was admitted, by whom attended, when discharged, and in what state.

6. He shall from time to time prepare a list of whatever drugs, &c., may be wanted for the use of the Dispensary, and submit it to two of the Surgeons for their inspection and signature, which list shall be laid before the Managing Committee at their next meeting.

7. He shall attend all the meetings of the Institution, and assist the Honorary Secretaries in taking minutes of the proceedings, if required.

8. When desirous of quitting his situation he shall give three months' notice, by letter to the Chairman of the Committee.

9. He shall be liable to be discharged at any time, if his conduct is disapproved of, on being paid his salary up to the period of his dismissal. But the Committee shall have the power of giving him in addition any sum, not exceeding the wages of three months, at their discretion.

10. In addition to his salary he shall receive the sum of ten pounds per annum, for occasional extra assistance which he might require.

RULES RELATING TO THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.

1. There shall be eight Surgeons, and one Consulting Physician, appointed to attend this Institution; and the number of Surgeons might be increased by the vote of a general meeting.

2. They shall be appointed by ballot, at a general meeting of the Governors. Each Medical Officer shall have the same privileges as an annual subscriber of one guinea.

3. No person shall be eligible for the office of Surgeon to this Institution, who has not obtained a diploma from the College of Surgeons of England, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, or the University of London.

4. All candidates, for the office of Surgeon, shall send in their names to the Committee, one month prior to the day of election. But any candidate who shall canvass the Governors, either directly or indirectly, shall be disqualified to be elected.

5. The Surgeons shall attend daily in rotation at the Dispensary, at appointed hours to meet their patients; but when patients are

too ill to go to the Dispensary they shall be visited at their own houses.*

6. Each Surgeon shall keep a register of the name, age, residence, date of admission, and discharge of every patient, with the result of the case, and any observations which he may deem important.

7. The Surgeons shall retire at Michaelmas in every third year, but shall be eligible to be re-elected. Notice of such retirement shall be given by advertisement in the Derby Mercury, Reporter, and Advertiser Newspapers, a month before the day appointed for the annual meeting.

FORM OF ERASURE FROM THE "FREE MEMBERS' " LIST.

"It having been reported to the Committee, of the Derby Self-supporting or Provident Dispensary, that you are able to pay for regular medical advice, I am desired to request your attendance at the Committee Meeting on _____ next at _____ o'clock, if you are desirous of continuing a "free member," to show cause why your name should not be erased from the books of the Institution.

To be signed by the Dispenser.

N.B.—Neglecting to attend on the Committee after this invitation, will be followed by exclusion."

* The Medical Officers generally disregard this Rule, and prefer making arrangements with the patients to see them at their own Surgeries instead of the Dispensary.

CASH ACCOUNT,

COPIED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1861, OF THE DERBY DISPENSARY.

Receipts.			Payments.		
1861.	Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr.	£ s. d.	
To Subscriptions Received from Honorary Members during the year ending Sept. 29, 1861 }		63 0 0	By Cash paid for Drugs and Leeches ...	262 17 9	
„ Subscriptions from Free Members ...		749 19 10	„ Dispenser's and Boy's Salary ...	80 0 0	
„ Fines from ditto ...		13 0 0	„ Housekeeper's Salary ...	15 0 0	
„ Error in Check ...		0 0 10	„ Gas, Coals, Candles, and Sundries ...	34 7 5	
			„ Printing, Advertising, &c. ...	10 7 3	
			„ Rates, Taxes, and Water Rent ...	7 7 10	
			„ A Year's Rent, due Michaelmas, 1861, Deducting Taxes, £1, 9s. 8d. ...	24 10 4	
			„ Assurance of Furniture, &c. ...	0 13 9	
			„ Collecting Subscriptions ...	1 0 0	
			„ * Balance due to the Medical Officers ...	389 13 4	
		<u>£826 0 8</u>		<u>£826 0 8</u>	

* Being at the rate of 2/1½ for each Free Member per Annum.

COPY OF FREE MEMBER'S CARD OF ENROLMENT.

DERBY DISPENSARY.

Free Member.

No.

[illegible]

Free Members are requested to pay their Subscriptions to the Secretary, on Thursday evenings, from 6 to 8 o'clock; and if they allow their Contributions to remain in arrear beyond the space of three months, will be excluded from the benefits of the Institution.

The Initials of the Secretary to be affixed to each payment.

On the reverse side of the Card — 6. If Free Members allow their Subscriptions to be unpaid six weeks, they will be fined one penny; if more than six weeks, threepence; if for three months they subject themselves to expulsion. No Members will be entitled to the benefits of the Institution whilst their Subscriptions are in arrear, nor be re-admitted except on payment of the arrears, not exceeding 3/6 for adults, and 1/9 each for two children in one family; and also sick entrance, if ill at the time of re-admission.

N. B. — At the time of enrolment each fresh Member receives a printed copy of the Rules relating to Free Members.

DISPENSARY BOOKS.

1. ENTRY BOOK — For Enrolling the Names of Free Members.
2. LEDGER — Containing the Names of Free Members, Number, Amount of Subscription Received, corresponding with the Number and Amount of Subscription stated on the Card.

The Name of the Surgeon by whom the person enrolled wishes to be attended.
3. CASH BOOK — In which are inserted all Receipts and Disbursements.
4. MONTHLY BALANCE SHEET BOOK — In which are contained the Receipts and Expenditure of the Month.
5. BANKER'S BOOK.

